

Hamilton, J

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Feb, Mon. 1916



147 Kent Str., St. Paul, Minn.,

Feb. 17, 1916.

Dr. R. A. Falconer,

Toronto, Ont.

Dear Dr. Falconer:

Believing you will be interested in the enclosed circular which has been quite widely distributed I am sending it to you.

Have received letters from the Premiers of Australia and New Zealand in favor of the first section, the second section they have not yet seen.

I do not know whether this appeals to you, but hope you will give it publicity if it does.

Is there any Association of Universities and Colleges throughout the English Speaking Nations? In your judgment could there be any affiliation that would be helpful along ~~the above~~ lines?

*beneficial*

You may have noted that Darwin P. Kingsley, President of the New York Life Insurance Company in an address in Chicago recently advocated an alliance of the English Speaking Nations. I have had up for years a plan to Commemorate Annually the Centenary of Peace and I am communicating with Mr. Kingsley today.

The Universities and Colleges train the thinking men and women of the nations that probably have the greatest future ahead of them of any people in the world, and if some plan could be worked out it should be of great benefit.

Very sincerely yours,

*J. W. Hammett*



St. Paul, Minn., U. S. A.  
January, 1916.

## AN ORGANIZATION TO BE CALLED THE SAILORS AND SOLDIERS OF THE EMPIRE.

The Great War has brought together for the first time Soldiers from every race and creed in The Empire. Let us make it epochal by an Organization, which will bring into contempt the wretched idea that The Empire would fall apart if war broke out.

The plan is briefly, to form an Organization in every Dominion and Dependency of The Empire including the British West Indies as a unit and therein have an annual meeting of representatives of every branch of the Service whether actively engaged or in training during the Great War, having the Press, the Pulpit, etc., give wide publicity to it; not as a feature of War but as a feature of Peace and of the unity and power of The Empire which was so greatly used for human freedom. Then beginning with Great Britain have an Annual Meeting for the entire Empire on similar lines, holding this meeting in the various Dominions in turn.

To the meeting in Great Britain, representatives from Australia, New Zealand, India, South Africa, etc., would travel via Suez and return via Newfoundland and Canada, so that they would circle the Globe, and similarly with other meetings.

The systematic visiting of representative sailors and soldiers from every part of The Empire to every other part in turn will in time exert a tremendous influence.

Let us show to the world by this plan the mighty unity which has made the Empire possible, a unity which, incidentally, will be a warning which no Nation could ignore.

In the old days, Knighthood was bestowed on the field of battle and it is the splendid thought of Sir Samuel Hughes who has warmly approved the idea, that this organization be formed at the front.

There should be, of course, an insignia or medal for each man, this is offered as a suggestion. A small enameled globe with The Empire in one color, the United States in a second and the balance of the world in a third, attaching the globe by a small swivel to a metal band which will have the Union Jack in colors, or two hemispheres flat in these colors.

## A MEMORIAL DAY FOR THE EMPIRE.

The United States has for several decades followed the beautiful custom of decorating on May 30th the graves of its fallen soldiers. What an example for The Empire and what an inspiration at this time.

On Memorial day the American people remember their dead and what their death has signified to the nation.

Why should not the far flung Empire adopt the same plan and if possible use the same day May 30th? What an influence upon the best thought of the world would be the knowledge that on that date one-third of the world's population and area kept in mind the memory of their sailor and soldier dead; that this wonderful race having charge of so much of the world's area were themselves under the reign of one law, the law of arbitration, and that war and its horrors between them, at least, would be known no more.

The objection will be raised that two holidays, Empire Day and Memorial Day come too close together, but May 30th need not be a holiday for The Empire, but rather the day in the year when everyone, children and adults, would wear a sprig of evergreen or a picture of it on a piece of white ribbon to show to all observers that they had in mind their fallen heroes of every race, creed and color.

There has been introduced into Congress a bill to provide for Federal action on this matter and officially calling upon the American people to wear this sprig of evergreen tied with a knot of red, white and blue silk ribbon, or a colored picture of it on a piece of white ribbon. Perhaps such legislation would be necessary throughout The Empire.

I hope to hear from you.

Very sincerely yours,

J. W. HAMILTON. 147 Kent St.



February 22nd, 1916

Mr. J. W. Hamilton,  
140 Kent Street,  
St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

I am afraid that it might be difficult to arrange for an organisation so widespread in its connection as the one that you propose. I haven't any doubt that at the close of the war a serious effort will be made to co-ordinate the life of the Empire much more closely, though the proposals that have been hitherto made have many difficulties. These must be settled, however, by statesmen who out of large practical experience may be able to suggest solutions.

There is a Bureau of the Universities of the Empire. Already there have been two Conferences held in London, the last one in 1912, which was attended by representatives of 51 universities. Probably another will meet in about two years, or shortly after the close of the war.

I should like very much if Mr. Kingsley's dream of an alliance of the English-speaking nations could be realised, as it would be the surest means of securing permanent peace for the world. I am afraid, however, that the American people are so anxious to retain strict neutrality and to avoid European complications that such a hope cannot be fulfilled in our time.

I was greatly impressed last week by Mr. Root's address.  
It seems to me to be full of hope.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.



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March 9th, 1916

Mr. J. W. Hamilton,

147 Kent Street,

St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

I am afraid that it might be difficult to have the American Universities associated at our next meeting of the Universities of the Empire. There are definite problems of our own Universities that must be attended to first, and it might be doubtful whether the American Universities would approve of being singled out from the other Universities of the world in this way.

We have in the University of Toronto a course of lectures which I think fulfils some of your ideas. Some years ago a lady gave us \$5000 to establish a foundation on which lectures are given once in every three years by some prominent gentleman of the United States or Canada dealing with some phase or phases of the public life of each country. The course was inaugurated last year by Ex-President Taft and was a great success. We have not yet decided upon his successor.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.